

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from 14 February on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie — Parliamentary Secretary) [2.36 pm]: I am very pleased to rise after the Treasurer. I will begin by congratulating the Treasurer on a tremendous budget. It is not often that I have the opportunity to provide some instant economic analysis of our state budget, but on this occasion there are some real highlights. The fact that we have a \$553 million general government operating surplus for the coming financial year is an outstanding achievement. I will be able to address many other noteworthy features in my contribution to the debate on the budget, but the fact that we are saving the state from having to pay about \$508 million in interest repayments is another outstanding achievement—something that we can be very proud of.

It is clear to me that the economic management reputation of the McGowan government is firmly established. In the mind of the Western Australian public, it is very clear that we are the superior and reliable economic managers—the people who can be trusted. Sometimes I worry that perhaps the electorate can forget things, but when it comes to economic management, our reputation is well and truly established. Having spent a little time on some of the pre-polling booths over the last week, I worry that when it comes to that collective memory, there is a degree of amnesia about the performance of Palmer's United Australia Party. I hope that the concern that I have will be allayed once we know the results of the 18 May election, and that just as people have firmly in their minds who the superior economic manager in this state is, they will understand that anyone who does a deal with the Palmer party should not be contemplated or trusted for government. Those are some of the opening remarks that I wanted to begin with.

This is a contribution to the debate on the Premier's Statement; therefore, I have the opportunity to talk about things that impact on my electorate. I also have the opportunity to talk about things that are already showing themselves to be the hallmarks of a government that cares about the people and voters in our electorates, and about the nature and diversification of our state's economy. I am very excited about the diversification of our economy and the new opportunities that are arising. I am particularly excited about the emergence of the higher education sector, especially in the post-graduate education and research area. Education is one of Australia's top export revenue earners. I understand that nationally, education is in the number three position, after iron ore and coal. We can be very proud of that. It is a great development. I am also very proud that the McGowan government has committed to building international education. The Treasurer announced today that the McGowan government will be investing \$4.5 million towards the StudyPerth international education action plan. I have no doubt that will pay great dividends in establishing Western Australia as a place of great renown and reputation in higher education.

Of course, a successful industry requires good management and nurturing. We need to maintain credibility. I now want to turn to that issue. Many members would have seen the *Four Corners* program on Monday night, "Cash Cows". A viewing of that program would leave all of us concerned. It is clear that questionable practices are taking place. If we are not very careful, we will put in jeopardy the reputation that we are building as a provider of quality education that delivers value for money and is delivered in a safe environment. Reputation is a very fragile thing at times. It is very important that we ensure that if there are any bad apples in our higher education and international education barrow, we get rid of them as quickly as possible.

The *Four Corners* program presented a juxtaposition between the fairly slick marketing images of some of our universities, and the reality, which is often somewhat grim. One academic made a very important point about where things are going wrong. He said —

"Admitting students who don't have the right qualifications, or right prerequisites, or correct language capabilities is setting them up for failure. This is just not what a university should do. That's not what education is about."

My concern is that if universities are too keen to enrol people and get big numbers, they run the risk of enrolling students who do not have the necessary prerequisites and are not suitable for the course.

My heart also went out to those students who talked about what they thought would happen when they came here. We need to keep in mind that some of these students have paid a large amount of money for their course, sometimes \$50 000 or \$60 000. They imagined that when they enrolled in the course, not only would they get the benefit of a great education and gain some good technical skills, but also they would have the opportunity to emerge themselves in Australian culture. They imagined that they would be studying alongside Australian students, and students from elsewhere as well. However, they said they were bitterly disappointed when they got to their course and found that most, if not all, of the other students enrolled in that course were from overseas. They did not get the opportunity of engaging with Australian people at that very meaningful level of studying. They might get some

opportunities socially, but I think we would all agree that if people are newly arrived in a country, there is nothing like a workplace or place of study to give them the opportunity to make that initial contact with the natives, the citizens of the country. One student reported in the *Four Corners* program that there were no Australians in the class, only Indians, Nepalese and Sri Lankans. It is wrong when the marketing pitch presents the image that students will go to the beach in the mornings and attend lectures in the afternoons, alongside Australians. That is not honest. That does not meet the integrity test that we need to put on this wonderful sector that we are developing.

Many of these problems have emerged since 2016 when the federal Liberal–National government changed the Australian visa system. The federal government gave universities the responsibility of assessing the suitability of visa applicants to be students, particularly around the vetting of English language standards. That means that universities have become the testifiers of the English language standards that form part of a visa application. I am concerned about the potential conflict of interest when, on the one hand, universities are eager to sign up people for courses, and, on the other hand, are entrusted with the responsibility of determining that a student is not suitable and perhaps saying goodbye to \$60 000 from that student. It is all about maintaining credibility. I wonder whether we have the best system in place to do that. University admission officers are responsible for maintaining admission standards, but they operate under commercial pressure. International students are paying around \$7 billion each year to Australian universities in fees. That is a massive amount of money.

I am particularly concerned about the role of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency. That is a federal government body. I would have thought it would want to comment on the *Four Corners* program, but in fact it is fair to say that it has been missing in action. That is very disappointing, because that body is responsible for ensuring that universities meet the standards and maintain the integrity of the system. The *Four Corners* program also provided evidence—through means such as leaked emails—about English language waivers. During the program, an email was provided from the Director International, Murdoch University, dated 10 January 2018, which states —

Attached is a list of English applications I looked (at) with a view to see if there are some waivers we can make.

There is clearly a concern that some students are being given a waiver without the necessary tests being applied. I raised this matter some time ago with the Vice Chancellor of Murdoch University. I have also raised this matter publicly in other forums, including in September 2018 with Her Excellency Ms Harinder Sidhu, Australia’s High Commissioner to India. I have been asking questions about this for some time. Therefore, it was very interesting to see that *Four Corners* report. The vice chancellor of Murdoch University told me that a total of 1 680 students were admitted in semesters 1 and 2 of 2018. It would be interesting to know how many of these students were beneficiaries of an English language waiver, and how these students performed. That would be a very useful integrity check. There is a very important conversation to be had about the integrity of our higher education sector.

In my electorate, I encounter many students who are enrolled not at a university but in other courses. I worry about the quality of those courses. I also worry about the motivation of students who come to this state to do those courses and the amount of money they have paid. We need to bear in mind that we are often talking about people who have arrived in Australia from various parts, often from the subcontinent and elsewhere, and who pay big amounts of money that they have raised through their families going into debt. Families in Third World countries are going into serious debt to pay for a higher education product in Western Australia. That is a worry. Students are then put under incredible pressure. They know that their family back home is desperate for them to succeed and is suffering greatly because of the financial debt they have put themselves in, but the student then finds that they cannot cope with the course. I know that the universities talk about the various student welfare programs that they have in place to deal with students who are in very, very stressful situations. I imagine that the young person whom one might encounter working at the service station very late at night or very early in the morning is invariably an overseas student who is working those horrendous hours to get a little bit of pocket money while they are studying. They have this added stress of worrying about how they are performing in their course and what the consequences might be if they do not succeed—that is, the impact on their family back home. It is an incredibly stressful situation.

We really do owe it to not just the credibility of this important sector but also our international reputation in those countries to make sure that the very best of standards is applied and that, when necessary, we say to people, “Sorry, your English level is not adequate and will not be good enough to get you through the rigours of an academic course.” We have to say that when that is the case. We cannot just hope that people might arrive here and acquire, almost by osmosis, the English language skills that will get them through the course. We cannot rely on that. I know that there are some very bright people coming through, but the development of good language proficiency is not something that can just be turned on as someone signs the cheque to enrol in a course.

I especially acknowledge the three academics who appeared on the *Four Corners* program. While they may have raised difficult issues for Murdoch University, their assistance in bringing this matter to public attention and their

desire to see this issue discussed publicly must be commended. I am sure that Murdoch University is incredibly proud of them for doing that. Even if they have raised difficult issues for the university, I have no doubt that the university is very proud of what they have done. I think that Associate Professor Gerd Schröder-Turk; Dr Duncan Farrow, a senior lecturer in mathematics and an academic misconduct investigator; and Professor Graeme Hocking, head of discipline in the School of Engineering and Information Technology, have actually done our higher education sector a great service by bringing this issue to public attention, providing further evidence and ensuring that this matter is discussed broadly so that we are fully aware of it.

Dr D.J. Honey: Hear, hear!

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I acknowledge the support of the member for Cottesloe on this matter. I am sure that the university senate will be asking tough questions of its senior administrators. They will be delving into this matter in great detail, because it seems that there is evidence around that things have been going wrong. I will submit one further piece of evidence—an email that came to my attention. This was from a Western Australian government department to some people. The subject of the email is “New Changes to English Language req for Murdoch University”. It says —

I have learned from my sources that Murdoch have become very generous and will be waiving off English language requirement of students from Section 1 institutions.

In short run you will love it as the graph of your enrolment numbers will shoot up. But after a few days / weeks you will see students approaching you for release letter and enrolling for Diploma program. They will use your English waiver just to get visa. Intention will be something else.

Couple of WA institutions did the same but burned their hands.

I wanted to caution you rest you know what is good for you.

Regards,

That is from an officer in our Western Australian public service to enrolments people at Murdoch University.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: It is very important that we have this serious conversation around ensuring the integrity of our academic sector, and that our international student intake continues to grow. We can do that by having all the integrity checks in place. It is very important that we get it right. It does raise a broader conversation and issue about the traditional role of governments and universities. The tradition is that universities are distanced from government and that governments do not interfere in the operations of universities, but as this sector becomes so big, and if loose practices do occur, I think there will be a need for greater transparency and accountability. If we fail to administer this sector, one poor-performing university could damage the reputation of the whole sector. With massive export revenue earnings at stake, good governance is absolutely vital.

In the remaining time, I want to address some electorate issues that I am particularly proud of. Since this government came to office, we have seen a revitalisation of my Thornlie electorate. That is demonstrated by the investment in the area—the dollars that are coming in to provide good quality infrastructure. I was there when the refurbishment of the Gosnells Police Station was taking place and I could see the investment happening there. We have extra police officers there now, which is fantastic to see. That really does please the community. I was very pleased to host a community safety forum in Maddington a few weeks ago. I was thrilled to have the Minister for Police and some senior police officers along. We were able to talk to the public about some of their pressing concerns. The fact is that, on most levels, the statistics are looking very good. We are improving things. Having said that, unfortunately I have been the victim of a couple of burglaries, but that is the way it goes. I know that I am not alone in that. But the overall trends are very good.

A very interesting point discussed at the forum was the role of social media in commenting on community safety matters. One audience member raised this issue. Some of the people in the audience were actually the administrators of various Facebook pages, which usually come under a suburb’s name followed by the words “crime watch”. There is a risk that those pages get into fearmongering. Someone perhaps has a legitimate concern, or perhaps a not-so-legitimate concern, but by putting it on the page, a whole conversation takes off and, before we know it, accusations are being thrown around. It can be incredibly unpleasant. Without any evidence at all, people give the impression that there is a mini crime wave coming through and that there are all sorts of problems, when in fact there is nothing of the sort. One of the comments made by another person in the audience in Maddington was that the community needs to develop critical and analytical thinking skills to check the source of the information and what the motivations of the person administering the page might be. It is just about questioning the source of the information. I think people will have a view about certain pages—that some are reliable and some are not so reliable. I note that the person who was the administrator of one of the pages in my area has since put forward their candidacy with Pauline Hanson’s One Nation party. It is interesting how people can use these things

to develop a following. I talked to people in the area around Maddington where we did have a problem—there is no escaping it; we had a problem household. I spoke to neighbours of not too far away and they said yes there was a problem house, but elsewhere around the neighbourhood it was lovely. They said it was a very quiet neighbourhood and it was unfortunate they were thrust into the spotlight because of a commercial TV station wanting to report on issues there. That said, there is no denying that there are problems we have to face, and the methamphetamine problem underpins so much of this. I am relieved we are working towards tackling those problems, but they are huge problems. I think we can work best as a whole community to solve them.

I want to touch on the issue of the Maddington Homestead. I thank the Minister for Heritage for his assistance in helping advance this issue. This homestead was built in 1836, so it is one of the very first buildings European people built in this part of the world and it is therefore of some historical significance. It has been allowed to run down and we are now waiting for the developer to release a time line of when the development will occur. I have approached the developer, but I have not received a response. I am going to seek, perhaps with the Minister for Heritage's assistance, some indication of the time line so we can reassure the community that this great building is restored in some way and that it can be a community hub that people can use for their interaction with an interesting part of the Canning River that has become a bit degraded. Weed infestations, shopping trolleys and the like seem to plague the area. With the development of the Maddington Homestead and the money that has been promised should Labor win at the federal election on 18 May, the urban rivers money that Tony Burke announced, with a commitment of \$2 million to the Canning River, I think there is a great hope for us not just to tidy up the river and reinstate its ecological integrity, but also make it an area of greater recreational value that will then see the values of properties in the area really lift. It is a part of Maddington where there are a lot of new properties. The developer, the Golden Group, has done some great development work in the area, but it is time to finish the job, to invest in the heritage of the area and rely on and enjoy the fact that the federal government will invest in the area—I am very confident—when we win on 18 May with the \$2 million urban rivers program money coming into the area. That is a great example of various levels of government—local, state and federal—coming together to lift up an area and really turn it into a very desirable part of the Perth metropolitan area to live in. There are many other achievements that we have already undertaken. There are many things on the horizon as well, such as the Gosnells town centre urban renewal and the Thornlie–Cockburn train line extension. Those projects are well underway and I look forward to updating the house on the next stages. It is a really good feeling to see that with the reins of government things are actually happening and we can be very proud of our record in investing in areas that have been neglected for far too long and forgotten about.

One thing I really enjoy is receiving people in this Parliament. They are people who have perhaps been sceptical about the political process—the state and federal Parliament. They have not had the opportunity to really engage with it in a meaningful way, but have heard things in the media to make them feel that the parliamentary system is failing them in some way. I am always encouraged to receive them here and to be able to talk them through how things work. I explain to them that the behaviour in question time perhaps leaves something to be desired, and that if they listen to debate on an important piece of legislation, they might either find it a little bit obscure or dull, but if they really thought about it, they would be reassured that the process we apply here is one of great rigour, considers all sorts of possibilities and is designed to tease out potential flaws in legislation and policy. I am always pleased to notice when people leave this place that they have a sense of confidence restored when they perhaps felt otherwise prior to coming here. In a similar vein, when I have groups of students coming here, some groups come with this sense of our democracy being some huge jigsaw with all the pieces in a box. By visiting here I guess they get a couple of those pieces out of the box and put them together to begin the long journey of working out what the picture of our democracy might look like and what it does look like. I think of visits I have had from schools such as the Bramfield Park Primary School in Maddington or Sacred Heart School Thornlie, which is a Catholic school, or the Australian Islamic College in Thornlie. They are three schools that have visited recently and whose students I have enjoyed the company of. I enjoyed the questions as well—seeing young minds already beginning to think about how we as a collective group make decisions about things that are often contested and on which there are all kinds of views. People are challenged by how we equitably and fairly make decisions, taking into account all those different views. I congratulate all members on this, because I think all of us embrace the opportunity when young people come here. Often they are young people who will not be voters for many years, but I think we all really enjoy the opportunity to inform and educate.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [3.06 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the Premier's Statement. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Treasurer in the delivery of another sensible and fair budget. I was really proud to listen to that this afternoon. In my contribution to the Premier's Statement I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some of the achievements of the McGowan Labor government of the last two and a bit years we have been in government, because I think we now have some excellent things on our record. One thing I think is fantastic is that we went to the election saying we would focus on creating jobs and that is exactly what we have done. A big thing that is important in my electorate is local jobs for manufacturing, because manufacturing is a big industry there. There is the railcar program, which I think is worth \$1.6 billion, to build 246 new railcars.

It is fantastic to know that that is being done by local manufacturers and it is something we should really be proud of. We opened the Matagarup Bridge and we should be proud of that as well. Again, it was done by local construction workers, so that is another fantastic achievement. The new Museum will be fantastic. I very much look forward to it opening when it is finished. Construction has started, and that will again create 3 000 jobs for locals, and that is fantastic. We opened Optus Stadium. We have also allocated money to Scitech, which I am really excited about, in the vicinity of \$25 million. That is fantastic. We all know the value of science and encouraging young people to take an interest in science, because we know it will provide the jobs of the future, so investing in something like Scitech is really worthwhile. We have also established the first urgent care clinic at Royal Perth Hospital. Again, that is something we took to the election back in 2017. It was seen as really needed to free up our hospital emergency departments. I think that is really fantastic.

As a mum of two young children, I feel really strongly about the free meningococcal ACWY vaccine for all Western Australian children aged one to four years. I am also particularly paranoid about meningococcal. To see the government make that vaccine readily available is fantastic. I really hope that measures such as that will mean that young lives are saved from such a terrible illness as meningococcal.

It feels like everything on this list is vitally important, and they are. We should be really proud of these achievements. We have spent more on mental health services than ever before. That is fantastic, particularly when so many young people are afflicted with mental health issues. I regularly speak to teachers in my electorate about the mental health issues faced by our young people. It is really tragic. The fact that we are investing more in this space than ever before in WA makes me really proud to be part of the McGowan government team.

The government has frozen TAFE fees. Again, this is something that we took to the election in 2017. That was really important to do because it meant a lot to young people, in particular, who were struggling to find work. They were unable to go to TAFE to help them get employment because of the fees. Under the last Liberal government, TAFE fees went up by over 500 per cent. We recognised that that was completely unreasonable. It meant that many young people could not go to TAFE and get a vocational qualification. Thankfully, we have frozen TAFE fees. Importantly, when it comes to jobs, we have opened up seven jobs and skills centres right across WA. We have invested \$17 million to convert classrooms to science labs. Again, I mention this in relation to Scitech. Investing in school classrooms and ensuring that we make all science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects interesting and accessible to young people is such an achievement because we know that students will need those subjects for the jobs of the future. We are investing in kids. We are investing in their future and our future. I am really proud that the first of these science laboratories was opened at Belmont Primary School. The Premier came out to the school and the kids were really excited. The fantastic and dedicated science teacher at Belmont Primary School said that she was so excited by this initiative that she decided to stay on. She was considering retiring but she decided to stay on after seeing the reaction of the children when they saw this fantastic science lab and the additional \$25 000 that the school received to purchase new equipment for its science lab. A science lab was also just opened at Rivervale Primary School. I had a tour of it recently with the P&C and the board, and it looks fantastic. Again, the kids are thrilled to have this new facility at their school. Two more labs will be opened at schools in my electorate. Carlisle Primary School and Belmay Primary School will get new science labs. Both schools are delighted that they will be able to provide these labs for their kids.

We have also made coding part of the school curriculum. That is another great achievement. Again, that just shows how dedicated this Labor government is to investing in the future for our kids and making sure that we are giving them the best possible chance of getting a decent job in the future. Again, on education, because we know the value of education, we have committed to 300 additional education assistants in the classroom. As I said, I have two young children, who are both at school. One is in kindy and one is in grade 2. Every day I see firsthand how important those education assistants are for not only the sanity of the teachers, but also the kids, who get that one-on-one interaction and support, which is just essential.

I turn to trains, and Metronet—how fantastic that that is well and truly underway. We are seeing the construction of the new Forrestfield–Airport Link project. The precinct around the new Belmont train station is well and truly underway. I am really looking forward to it opening and having that in the electorate.

On a less positive note, methamphetamine is a major issue that we face right across this state. This government is tackling this issue head-on. It is a complex issue. It is not easily fixed. Our police minister understands that it takes a lot of resources to address this scourge in our community. That is why she developed the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce and committed \$131 million towards it. It is a whole-of-government approach. This is a terrible drug. It affects so many people and it touches so many lives. The flow-on criminal activity around it also affects a lot of people in my community. We want to see the back of this drug. I know that our government is committed to addressing it, which is fantastic.

Importantly, we have committed to building two new women’s refuges to help support women who are fleeing family and domestic violence situations. If women do not have somewhere safe to go, it is really unlikely that they

will be able to leave the situation that they are in. These types of things are practical and essential; they are really important in saving lives. I am very proud of our wonderful minister, Hon Simone McGurk. She is doing a fantastic job. To show that we are committed to helping protect victims of domestic violence, we have introduced 10 days of annual paid domestic and family violence leave, which is really essential and a great thing.

From an environmental perspective, we banned single-use plastic bags. That was a fantastic achievement. I am really proud that we did that so early on in our term of government. We invested \$1 million into the Riverbank program to enhance environmental, recreational and cultural values of the Swan and Canning Rivers. Unfortunately, I was not here when we passed the Waste Avoidance Resource Recovery Amendment (Container Deposit) Bill 2018 in this place earlier this year. I would like to highlight the importance of this bill. My remarks are around the environment and the importance of this bill in addressing waste in our community. I think that this is one of the critical things that all governments will face in coming years. Obviously, it will not solve all environmental problems or all problems relating to waste, but it is a critical step in the right direction. I am really proud of our achievements in that area. Why was it necessary to look at waste and consider these things from an environmental point of view?

I would like to refer to an article that I read on 6 May, a few days ago, titled “‘Our last chance’: Warning one million species at risk of ‘annihilation’”. That article on news.com.au highlighted a draft report from the United Nations. It is basically its first global assessment on the natural world for the last 15 years. These findings stopped me in my tracks when I read them. Late on Tuesday night, I saw another article buried in *The West Australian*, and I read that as well. It was really quite troubling, to say the least. This report estimated that one million of the eight million species on earth face extinction due to human activity. I am not talking about the next 1 000 years or, indeed, the next couple of hundred years. According to this draft report, this will occur within a number of decades. What is most troubling about the UN findings is the accelerated species loss compared with that of the past. Over half a million land species do not have sufficient habitat for long-term survival and in all possibility will be extinct unless their natural habitats can be restored as a matter of urgency. I really think that we owe it to future generations to act now. We cannot ignore this any longer. I do not know about anybody else in this chamber but my newsfeed on my social media Facebook page is saturated on a daily basis with content relating to the catastrophic nature of climate change and human effect on our environment. It is really important that we take stock and listen to the young people who are outraged at the lack of action around the world. I am really proud that we are taking steps, albeit we cannot fix everything overnight. The McGowan government is really committed to doing its bit, which is great.

I return to this article on news.com.au. Humans are responsible for dumping up to 400 million tonnes of heavy metals, toxic sludge and other waste materials into oceans and rivers every year. Of course, a person does not have to be a rocket scientist to understand that that has detrimental effects to the overall ecology and biodiversity within those water systems. Robert Watson, who is the chairman of the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services—that is quite a mouthful—is quoted in this article. I quote directly —

“Our destruction of biodiversity and ecosystem services has reached levels that threaten our wellbeing at least as much as human-induced climate change.”

On the same report, an article in yesterday’s *The West Australian* titled “A million species at risk, says report” said —

Western nations must cut consumption to avoid the biggest mass extinction in human history.

The report points to the continual consumption and waste that humans produce every year, and that is one of the major detrimental factors impacting the natural world. The article also quotes directly from the draft report that the natural world is “essential for human existence”. Why are we not all talking about this? I think that is something we all need to ponder for a moment—essential for human existence. The conclusion of the report is essentially that—and again I will quote from the article in *The West Australian*—“the threat to wildlife is a threat to humanity.” It is not an overstatement to say that I was devastated to read these articles. It has been constantly on my mind since reading this article late on Tuesday night and then the subsequent one that was on news.com.au. The magnitude of the problem can be overwhelming; however, there are practical things governments of all levels can do for the environment to, most importantly, reduce our impact on the environment. Although it is only one piece of legislation, I am really proud of our container deposit scheme legislation, because it is a practical measure to reduce our waste.

As I said, the bill has already been passed in the Legislative Assembly. It provides legislation to support the government’s goal of vastly and radically improving how WA currently deals with our own waste. I also think that it will help to foster a culture of waste reduction and, hopefully, re-use and recycling in our state. It is also fulfilling an election commitment. We went to the election saying that we would introduce a container deposit scheme. Other states have successful results from their container deposit schemes, and now we are proud to have introduced one here in WA. A range of actions are now either in place or being planned here in WA, which is great, so I would like to touch on some of those as well. These are outlined in our new “Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery

Strategy 2030” and “A Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australia 2015–2020”. The targets set out are to, first, avoid waste; second, recover more resources; and, third, protect the WA environment. The actions include expanding the Waste Wise WA schools program. On that note, I will deviate for a moment to say that I am proud of the actions of so many of my local schools in educating of our young people on their impact on the environment around waste and how we deal with it. This morning I was privileged to be at an assembly for Cloverdale Primary School. Awards were handed out for what is called the “green team”—I think that name is correct. The green team has formed organically at the school. It is not something the principal introduced; it was created from scratch.

[Member’s time extended.]

Ms C.M. ROWE: The school ran short video on the program. The teachers are involved but a number of students have volunteered to participate in this program. The whole aim of the program is to move the school towards waste reduction and almost being a zero-waste school, which is fantastic. The school does a waste audit and all sorts of fantastic things. There is a collection place at the school for recyclables and so forth. It is a fantastic initiative. Rivervale Primary School also does the same thing. The children get involved and learn about what can be recycled and using less plastics in the lunchboxes and so forth. It is fantastic to educate our young people on how they can directly impact our environment in a positive way, and I am really proud of that.

I return to some of the actions included in the waste avoidance and resource strategy. As I said, the Waste Wise WA schools program, the Better Bins program and the food organics and garden organics program are really great initiatives because they make the householders responsible for their own waste. Other actions include focused reduction in management of building and construction waste; reducing waste generated from WA’s wastewater; reducing government waste via better-practice procurement and government-generated construction projects; government reduction in the use of single-use plastics, which is great; the roads to re-use program, whereby concrete and tyre rubber is re-used on roads; working with local governments to implement better waste management and recycling practices; introducing more targeted waste-levy rates and working with WA’s Keep Australia Beautiful council to implement stronger litter-prevention strategies. These are all great.

Dealing with our waste is a huge issue, and I am proud of this government for tackling this issue head-on. We need to become that circular economy and a society that takes care of the waste that we generate because we are all responsible for it. We cannot be dependent on governments to act. We all need to make sure that as consumers we are being proactive with our choices. As consumers, we need to know what the targets are. We need to know exactly how we can reduce waste, correctly manage our waste and recycle all the organic and non-organic products we use in our daily lives. As a local member, I recently ran a free seminar for locals. I had a guest speaker come out who apparently is an expert on how to live a zero-waste life. Although I am not sure I will be able to adopt all her recommendations, it was fantastic to see so many locals come out to learn how they can live a life that has less of an impact on our environment. I think there is an appetite for people to take responsibility for this type of thing, which is great to see. Western Australian society must become one that generates the change. As I said, we cannot just wait for governments and retailers to make all the changes; we have to demand it.

Although Australia may have the recent history of shipping waste offshore to developing countries, in particular to China, it now has to deal with putting basically all of its waste into landfill, which means we need to consider how we deal with that. We need to, as I said, look at what we are putting into the waste to begin with rather than treating it as though it is out of sight, out of mind. The award-winning ABC documentary *War on Waste* was a catalyst for change. It sparked the debate more so than I have ever seen before around waste and the impact that we are having on the environment. It certainly created discussion even in my home with my two young children. It made us look at where our waste is going and how we are handling it. It is a huge problem. Our waste is growing at eight per cent annually, which is quite scary. The two series of this program raised a number of issues, many of which consumers, governments and retailers are now responding to, which is good. This includes our own government, which banned single-use plastic bags in 2018. The ban now extends to all retailers, not just the majors. We can be proud that we have taken this step because it shows that we are serious about tackling waste. Our 2030 strategy also shows that we are committed to addressing this. As a consumer, though, I would also like to see the major retailers continuing to lead the way in the state. Following the state’s ban on single-use plastic bags, Coles and Woolworths have received widespread criticism for their use of the plastic collectables promotions. Woolworths had the Christmas collectibles and Coles had the Little Shop collectibles, both of which were widely condemned. As a parent, I did my own, albeit small, boycott of these retailers whilst they were doing this. I made sure that I told my six-year-old daughter, Bobby, why we were not shopping there. She got angry and appalled when we went back to shop at Coles after it had stopped the promotion. In her words, “Plastic is what chokes turtles and other marine life.” Go Bobby! Despite this, Coles has had two collectable promotions in recent months with Stikeez, which is aimed at children. It claims that it was designed to help improve children’s eating habits. However, according to SBS on 15 February, Coles received thousands of emails condemning the promotion, which I am really pleased about because that is just pathetic in this day and age. They are single-use because a child will look at them, play with them maybe momentarily at best and then that plastic will sit in landfill for thousands of

years—what a disgrace. Retailers need to work harder to find ways to reduce waste and come up with more creative ways to promote, supposedly, healthy eating habits. That being said, some retailers are changing in response to consumer expectations. An example of us being the change is Molly Steer, a young 10-year-old girl from Cairns, Queensland. She started the Straw No More campaign after seeing a documentary with her mum titled “A Plastic Ocean”. The campaign began with her desire to stop the torture inflicted on marine animals as a result of single-use plastic straws. As of 2018, Australians use 10 million plastic straws daily and this number will steadily reduce now that children such as Molly are generating change. I was really inspired to read her story. She should be congratulated for being an agent of change. Also inspiring the ABC’s *War on Waste*, Molly first asked her school and then her local council to stop using straws—it can be as easy as that. As reported on the ABC and in the *Brisbane Times* in 2018, more cities, such as Adelaide and Brisbane, are following suit with city councils already banning plastic straws, helium balloons and plastic drinking bottles in all council operations and council-sponsored events. I would love councils across WA to take that up; it would be a fantastic.

Also stepping up are some retailers, small and large, across the state and nation and internationally. Some have already stopped plastics in drinking straws. Apparently—I was surprised to learn this, but pleasantly so—McDonald’s will phase out plastic straws by 2020. Woolworths stopped selling plastic straws at the end of last year and Coles has committed to 90 per cent diversion from landfill in 2022. I congratulate those retailers for these positive steps because we rely on them to help governments bring about these really important changes.

With the essence of time in mind, I will touch on e-waste because how we deal with it is a critical issue. I recently had the pleasure of looking around a local business in my electorate that deals with e-waste. Minister Dawson came with me to look at Total Green Recycling’s facility in Kewdale. It is a great example of businesses leading the charge on a positive environmental program. Total Green Recycling was founded 10 years ago by two brothers, James and Michael Coghill, in their father’s garage. They decided to start recycling electronic waste, such as computers, TVs, mobile phones, batteries and so forth. They employ 41 staff, which is great, and have recovered over 2 356 tonnes of e-waste, which amounts to 500 000 electronic items, which, in all probability, would have ended up in landfill or dumped on a verge. E-waste is one of the fastest growing waste contributors in the world and we need to deal with it as a matter of priority. It is estimated that the amount of e-waste produced in the next 10 years will double. According to the head of Sustainability Australia, e-waste will increase from the 138 000 tonnes produced in 2012–13 to 220 000 tonnes in 2023–34. That is really scary because a lot of it will end up in landfill and those phones and computers contains very toxic products.

According to the Australian Academy of Science, approximately 25 million old and unused phones are currently in Australian homes. I certainly have the odd mobile phone sitting around that is no longer in use. If our population is about 24.9 million, that is at least one mobile phone per every Australian. I encourage all members to recycle those products. As I mentioned, these items contain toxic substances, such as lead, mercury and toxic flame retardants and it is crucial that we prevent those substances from leaching into ground water and soil. They must be used and recycled in the appropriate way. I take this opportunity to congratulate businesses such as Total Green, which is doing fantastic work and I hope it continues to do so.

I am really proud about our commitment to the container deposit scheme. Cans create a lot of litter and the scheme will incentivise the recycling of cans. As I mentioned before, the container deposit scheme has been very successful in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. I am really looking forward to the results of the container deposit scheme and how it will positively impact our community. We have a strong record on the environment. We will be able to look back on that record in years to come and say, “We took the right steps.” I hope we continue to take steps and go further and bolder and make sure that we do everything within our power for our environment.

MR M. HUGHES (Kalamunda) [3.36 pm]: Before I begin my reply to the Premier’s Statement, I, too, congratulate Hon Ben Wyatt on an excellent report of the state of our finances and the plans for the forthcoming budget year. I am immensely proud—I can say this from where I stand as an older man—of the efforts of that young man to turn the state’s finances around. I will look at another young man’s vision for Western Australia. When Hon Mark McGowan was the Leader of the Opposition, he made an opening address to Parliament on 17 February 2016, which is not that long ago, it would seem, certainly looking at it from this end of the tunnel. It is very dark at that end but there is a lot of light at this end of the tunnel at the moment. In that address, he assessed the performance of the then state government and his assessment, member for Vasse —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr M. HUGHES: The member for Dawesville often looks in my direction when he makes a contribution.

His assessment was ultimately borne out of the findings of the Langoulant special inquiry, a document that members opposite wished had been consign to the Alexander Library Building or burnt to cinders because they do not like reading it. The then Leader of the Opposition’s remarks are well worth a read, members opposite, because they accurately assess the performance of their government. The former government’s story, members opposite,

is one of record debt and deficits, mere words over substance and chaotic decision-making. It failed to effectively prosecute a reform of the GST despite the claims made earlier today during a member's 90-second statement. Members opposite cannot repair that story as heroic by means of an un-funded political advertisement for the federal government, but there you go. The Liberal–National government failed to prosecute GST reform, but what was its solution to the problem? It was simply a grab for cash with a fire sale of state government assets. I refer particularly to our electricity network. It was a bailout solution to what I think were cumulative consequences of inept government. In the speech the then Leader of the Opposition gave to this place, he outlined a vision for the future of Western Australia and his government, should it be elected, as a strong state with a diversified economy; a state headed by competent, responsible government that focused on the delivery of essential services and carefully planned infrastructure. Some of those are very key phrases that we see repeated in the commentary made from the government benches. That, members opposite, remains the focus of the McGowan Labor government. It is a strong vision for all of Western Australia. Again, I think it is reaffirmed in the Premier's Statement made on 12 February this year. It is a vision that I know from my electorate that continues to resonate with the people of this state. What is more, it is underpinned by the Treasurer's budget speech today. As promised in the March 2017 state election, the McGowan Labor government is delivering good and stable government and, thereby, improving business confidence as evidenced by the Treasurer in question time on numerous occasions since we returned to this place.

As I say, the McGowan Labor government has a clear focus on stimulating growth in jobs with a plan for the diversification of the economy. It is focused on the provision of good core services across the state in the areas of health, education, housing, community and transport services. There is a focus on a congestion-busting roads program. What is more, we are revolutionising our public transport system by the phased implementation of Metronet. At the same time, the government is getting on with repairing the state finances and bringing them back on track by careful budget repair and expenditure restraint and thereby clearing up the gigantic mess left behind by the now opposition. Despite the Leader of the Opposition's claims to the contrary, the focus on job creation is bearing fruit. In short, members, the comparison should be made with the job creation rate that members opposite presided over in the last term that they were in office. That is the appropriate benchmark. Since Labor has come to office, we have heard that it has created 37 000 jobs and that is an indisputable fact.

I am interested in what the Special Inquiry into Government Program and Projects had to say about the opposition's performance when it was in government. The Leader of the Opposition has frequently used the term "shemozzle" while describing the work of this government. If we can turn shemozzle around and stare it in the face, as, I think, the seventh Treasurer within the term of the last government, the Leader of the Opposition, needs to accept responsibility for the mess he left this government to clear up.

It is sad to say that the problem arose because the Liberal Party component of the government allowed the National Party component to set up what was, in effect, its own rump cabinet entertaining itself with the unregulated royalties for regions bucket of cash. The then Premier allowed the erosion of the capacity and status of the Treasurer within the public sector, revelled in the consequential lack of clout that Treasury then had, paid little heed to Treasury advice and treated the position of Treasurer like a bizarre game of musical chairs—to mix a metaphor—to become a revolving door, as the special inquirer described it.

It is good to remind ourselves of some of the systemic issues identified by the special inquiry that are a hallmark of the incompetence of the previous government. They include —

- the Royalties for Regions program —

As administered by the Liberal National government —

destabilised the government's financial management processes;

- the absence of a whole-of-State plan detailing the government's highest priorities expanded expenditure pressures;
- the public sector lacked a sense of common purpose;
- the annual budget process became a year round activity;
- temporarily high recurrent revenue growth was used to pay for permanent expenditure promises, leaving behind structural budget deficits;
- decision makers lacked the capacity to act upon signs of unsustainable growth in net debt;
- high volatility in commodity prices was not incorporated into more conservative budget settings so when the downturn arrived the State was exposed;

We heard what the Treasurer had to say about that in his speech today. To continue —

- the quality of financial information supporting Cabinet Submissions deteriorated;

- capability gaps emerged in the public sector especially around project planning and evaluation; and

As if that were not enough —

- the Government defaulted to confidentiality around major projects rather than transparency.

That is not a flattering picture, so no lectures from members opposite about the performance of this government.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Pretty sure we're right.

Mr M. HUGHES: I do not think they are. I had an image today, member for Vasse —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Dawesville.

Mr M. HUGHES: Sorry; member for Dawesville, I apologise.

— of a rather large nail being driven into the coffin of the current Liberal opposition. I think members opposite deserve to be on the opposition benches, not for the next term but for at least another term beyond that, and I suspect they will be.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. HUGHES: The member for Vasse likes to skite across here —

A government member: Dawesville.

Mr M. HUGHES: Member for Dawesville; I apologise again. I will not make any comment about that. He skites about small margins.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: I do.

Mr M. HUGHES: He should think about his own and the way in which his frontbench has the capacity of the opposition to become a responsible government in this state. It is a joke. The quality of question time and the member for Dawesville's contribution to it is a hallmark of just how bereft members opposite are as a prospective government in waiting. They will wait for a long time.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. HUGHES: I suspect, member for Dawesville and member for Vasse, that they will not be on those benches —
Several members interjected.

Mr M. HUGHES: The government benches. They know which benches I am referring to. They will not be on the government benches for a long time. I think they should be looking at alternative career paths. That is my view.

We have heard from the Premier about the work that lies before the government over the next 12 months in continuation of its clear agenda. This is a Premier and government that are focused on delivering for all Western Australians and governing responsibly. Little more than 24 months in, we are getting the books in order and moving the state away from the spiralling debt and deficit position, which members opposite left to this government to repair. Most importantly—some of the economic gurus over there need to listen to this—this government has restored the status of Treasury to its rightful place and it heeds its advice. That is the problem members opposite faced. They faced a lack of capacity to listen to the professional advice and give due regard to the professionalism of Treasury officials. There is no doubt about the irrefutable proof that the McGowan Labor government's responsible approach to economic and financial management is delivering for all Western Australians, despite assertions to the contrary made by members opposite. As I said, that was evidenced today in the Treasurer's third budget speech. As a backbencher, I commend the discipline shown by the McGowan Labor government. It is very encouraging that we are at last in a position to budget from a more sustainable position for the long term.

While on the hustings in the electorate of Kalamunda during the course of the 2017 election campaign, it became evident that many local issues had been left untouched by the previous member and the previous government. This electorate had been taken for granted—this is part of the opposition's problem—as a historically safe Liberal seat. I referred to a number of those issues in my inaugural speech. It was a combination of neglect and uncertainty that needed to be addressed. Most of all, the community wanted a member who would be present and engaged with it in purposeful dialogue about issues.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: He was there for decades.

Mr M. HUGHES: I know he was; I was a constituent of his. Importantly, the community wanted a person who could understand the issues and had a willingness to advocate for them. It drew many traditional Liberal voters to risk a vote for me as the Labor candidate. Members opposite, it is my intention to ensure that I do not disappoint them. I think that so far I am not disappointing those voters. In particular, I highlighted the complete lack of available high-needs aged care and the need to ensure that our fellow citizens who benefit from the National Disability Insurance Scheme were not disadvantaged by the Western Australia NDIS agreement signed by the previous government. In the face

of the Parkerville and Stoneville fires, my community was calling for a complete response to the recommendations of the Ferguson report and a comprehensive hills and rural fire strategy. Other issues revolved around land use and the difficulty in navigating processes used for determining planning scheme amendments, environmental conservation and urbanisation, and the proposed green growth plan. A need for improved public transport across the hills and foothills, particularly for getting children to and from school, was also high on the agenda. My community wanted clarity about the continuing services to be provided by Kalamunda Hospital. The future of the hospital is assured as we commit to existing service delivery and a focus of the provision of expanded palliative and respite-care services. There were and continue to be calls to improve the learning environment at Kalamunda Senior High School and the co-located special education centre, Lesmurdie Primary School and Walliston Primary School, that had long been neglected for inclusion in the department's capital works program. I am carefully and methodically tackling these issues. I am pleased to say that after 24 months as the member for Kalamunda, progress has been made on a number of fronts.

On what might seem a small matter in the overall scheme of things, but an important one for families, was the circuitous public transport route that children from the Mundaring and Darlington areas had to take to get to school in Kalamunda and Lesmurdie. This involved a long journey into the Midland bus station and out again. Parents had repeatedly been told by the previous member that a solution to reducing travel time was not available. Although I was not able to secure a special school bus service, it proved possible, with a little creativity of thought and the assistance of the Minister for Transport, to get the Public Transport Authority to rework the 307 and 322 bus schedules within the existing PTA policy and overcome the need for children to travel into Midland, thereby significantly cutting journey time by up to an hour a day. It was a relatively small gain, but it has made such an enormous difference to the lives of the families who were confronted by this problem of getting their children to school—evidence of putting people first. I crave an extension.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your craving is granted, member.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr M. HUGHES: I was going to talk a little bit about NDIS, but I will save some of that for my contribution to the budget reply debate.

The decision to create the Rural Fire Division is probably the most significant step forward for Western Australia to broaden and focus its emergency services, keeping safe the diverse and risk-prone communities across the state, particularly in the hills. As a Darlington resident, I share my community's thanks that we now have a division with its own executive director to enable greater collaboration between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, government agencies and bush fire volunteers, and with it a focus on improved coordination, communication and volunteer relations. The establishment of the Bushfire Centre of Excellence in Pinjarra has been most welcomed and was much anticipated by the volunteer brigades across the state and in the electorate of Kalamunda once its creation was announced.

I will talk a little about the rural amenity of the hills and the need to look at the economic development of that area. A clear problem is faced by orchardists within the area in what has become an increasingly competitive business, particularly in terms of trying to manage the competition created by imported fruit. As a result, whole orchards have been uprooted. We need to provide support for those businesses to transition away from the traditional produce that has been grown in the area—apples, pears, citrus fruit and the like—to other produce. The collapse of the orchard industry has seen a slow demise of local centres over the years such as Pickering Brook and the nearby community of Carmel. For decades, the community has had a desire to engage with state government to look at ways to revitalise those centres without a loss of amenity in the district that is particularly attractive to tourist visitors. I have been particularly pleased by the willingness of the ministers for planning, agriculture and tourism to engage on this issue. Each minister has responded to my invitations to meet with local business owners, landowners and community members. A number of meetings have been held in people's homes on the weekends to discuss the issues confronting them. I particularly want to put on record and thank the Melvilles and the Beards for their hospitality and advocacy. I particularly want mention the sterling work of Bob Melville, Garry and Jenny Beard, Maureen Moffett, Sue and Lou Marchesano and Ray Furfaro who have worked assiduously over the years to lay the problems facing the district before the state government. At last they have been heard. Following their representations during the course of last year, the state government announced the establishment of a high-level task force to create a new planning and tourism strategy for the Perth hills. A working group has been established to support and report to the task force and I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to chair the working group. My community and the wider district do not underestimate the importance of this opportunity to plan for the district's future. The creation of the task force and the working group has raised community expectations that action will follow. I can assure the community that it will not be disappointed in this government. The study area is wide reaching. It covers much of the City of Kalamunda and extends into part of the City of Armadale. Importantly, the working group will ensure the development of a strategy that has due regard to landowner and community views and expectations through appropriate consultation.

In the minutes that remain, I want to talk a bit about aged care. I note that that generally excites the interest of the member for Dawesville, but I make no apologies for returning to it.

I am pleased that within nine months of coming to office, the McGowan Labor government established the aged care availability working group in pursuit of its election commitment to try to increase the provision of residential aged care across the Western Australian community. I was pleased to have called for the establishment of the working group, which is co-chaired by the Department of Health and the Department of Planning. The working group has been deliberating for the last 12 months and has reached a position in which it will provide its report and specific recommendations to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Planning. It was a privilege to sit as an ex-officio member of the working group and contribute to framing the recommendations that will be presented to government shortly.

I cannot underscore the focus on aged care more than I am already doing. This issue is a risk to the future budgets of both this state and the commonwealth. I will try to explain why I think that is the case. Although the issues with aged care have been well known to the commonwealth government for a considerable time, it is hoped that the commencement of the Royal Commission into Aged Care will bring about an improvement in the treatment of persons in residential aged-care accommodation. It is also hoped that it will bring the delivery of services into sharper focus for both the commonwealth and state governments. This matter must be placed at the centre of our public policy discourse. The consequential next step from the royal commission will be to ensure that both sides of politics address the adequate resourcing of the care of aged persons and the establishment of effective quality assurance measures for those delivering residential aged care and those providing support for the aged receiving care in their own home.

The future dollars involved in providing adequate care for the aged—particularly for those who are no longer able to be assisted in their own home through an aged-care package—is staggering. The federal Liberal–National government, and the federal opposition, are aware of the dimensions of the problem, which is looming large. It is estimated that there will be a \$40 billion a year blowout in aged-care funding as the Australian government grapples with how to pay for the spiralling cost of our rapidly ageing population.

In the Western Australian context, there is an inadequate supply of residential aged-care beds. It is a fact that in order to meet both the current and estimated demand, average new bed construction across Western Australia will need to increase from the average between 2015 and 2018, when only 311 beds were added to the stock in any one year. This reflects an annual shortfall of 698 beds per annum. The accumulated shortfall over the past four years is 2 716 beds. According to the information I have at hand, a total of 750 new beds per annum—that is, new built facilities—will need to become operational between now and 2026 to meet the expected demand by that date. Currently, 26 115 bed licences are allocated to Western Australia, which is sufficient to meet the demand until 2024, but only 17 483 are operational. That is a staggering deficit. By 2028, an estimated 31 286 operational beds will be required. This demand for residential aged-care places will not evaporate.

The state government’s commitment to develop a strategic approach to ensure the provision of new operational residential aged-care places is welcomed, along with its assurance to effectively manage the supply of aged care places to meet the demands of the Western Australian population. My election commitment was to make the provision of suitably located residential aged-care facilities in the electorate of Kalamunda a top priority. It is one that I am vigorously prosecuting with the McGowan Labor government, and it is a key performance indicator against which I will judge my performance as a member of this place. Nothing was achieved in this space by my predecessor in the 23 years in which he held the seat for the district. I intend to halt that.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr M. HUGHES: The member for Dawesville needs to look at the record, rather than simply, in his typical way, scoff at facts that he knows little about.

This government is getting things done. I am pleased to be a member of this government and to share in its successes. Thank you.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley) [4.06 pm]: I rise to make my contribution to the Premier’s Statement. Like my colleague the member for Kalamunda, I am also pleased to be part of the McGowan Labor government. In fact, I am more than pleased—I am very proud to be part of this government. That is particularly because this government has shown great leadership in the little over two years since it was elected, not only through the Premier’s Statement that we heard at the beginning of this sitting year, but also through the fabulous budget that the Treasurer has just brought down, our third budget since we were elected. That budget has brought this state back into the black, for the first time in five or six years. That is a great accomplishment, and I am very proud to be part of a government that is showing leadership on not only this issue, but all issues.

However, I am concerned about a local government that is perhaps lacking a bit of leadership on an issue. The member for Joondalup and I, along with the member for Burns Beach, have been dealing with the housing density

issue in the City of Joondalup for over two years now, and we are increasingly dealing with frustrated residents who are not being heard by the City of Joondalup. I note that one of my local residents' associations contacted me today to let me know that the mayor is meeting with the Edgewater residents this weekend, which is a very good thing, but they feel that their request to meet with the mayor and councillors has been ignored. This drives to the heart of the issue that the member for Joondalup and I are having with the City of Joondalup, namely its lack of consultation and ability to engage with the communities that we share and represent. The council's lack of ability to engage with residents at an appropriate level is very concerning.

Late last year, the City of Joondalup undertook some consultation with the residents. How successful that was remains to be seen. That consultation was brought about by Minister Saffioti, who requested that the City of Joondalup look at its housing density plan in a holistic way and take it to the community to see what changes it would recommend. Prior to this request from the minister, the City of Joondalup had been happy to just go along with the amendment that it had created, which up-coded a lot of the areas in our suburb to allow higher density to be built. As a town planner, I understand very well the need for infill density in our suburbs. We cannot afford to just keep sprawling. We cannot afford it economically, because we cannot keep putting roads, transport, hospitals and schools further and further away. We also cannot afford it environmentally. In a beautiful state such as Western Australia, where we value our natural assets very much, we cannot just keep sprawling out and taking over our natural assets. It is also important to note that there are really good reasons for density. I know that people who are against density do not like it when people like me tell them about or highlight these good reasons. For example, I know a few elderly couples or singles who have homes on beautiful blocks in the suburb of Greenwood in my electorate. They have lived there for 20 or 30 years. It is where they raised their families. They have 700-plus square metre blocks with large gardens and pools. Their families have now moved out. There are one or two of them who are trying to maintain a massive block in the middle of Greenwood. They love living in Greenwood because Greenwood is a fantastic place to live. They love that the local chemist knows them and their prescriptions. They know that they can go to their local doctor. They like going and having a chat to the boys and girls behind the checkouts. They love the sense of community in Greenwood, so they do not want to move away from that. But there is a real lack of housing diversity at the moment. There is a good reason for them to move out of their homes and downsize into a smaller residence. This is what infill can deliver.

My family is another good example of why infill is a good idea. We used to live in Landsdale, which is also a great suburb, but when my daughter got into one of the local primary schools, we wanted to move to Woodvale to be closer to that primary school. At the time, about five or six years ago now, I was still studying at university, so we were a one-income family. We could not afford to purchase a property in Woodvale because properties are large and expensive. Had there been a smaller townhouse or even a flat or an apartment, we probably would have moved into that, because we were a small family with one child. It would have given us a foothold in the suburb. It would have helped us to put down those roots, which we have now done. Once I got a job after graduating, I was able to afford to put money towards buying a property in Woodvale. We now have those established roots that we were looking for when my daughter was first in kindy at the primary school.

There are some really good reasons for infill. The problem we are facing, and the eternal frustration for the member for Joondalup and me, is that the infill we are dealing with is not appropriate to the streets of our suburbs. There are apartment buildings with numerous apartments right next to single-storey homes. While those apartments are in close proximity to train stations, which is a good idea, they are not very close—it is still a decent walk to get to the train station. The biggest concern for my residents is the lack of consultation by the City of Joondalup on this issue. As I have mentioned, last year the City of Joondalup spent half a million dollars on getting a consultant to do a report about infill in the City of Joondalup. The city has used this report to prepare a proposed amendment to the scheme. It looks at down-coding some places and up-coding other places. For all intents and purposes, it does give a more nuanced approach to density in the area. However, instead of taking that guiding report, which is what it is, to the community and saying, "Hey, what do you think about this?", and then using that community feedback, together with the report, to create an amendment, the city decided to step back and say, "This is not our report; this is the consultant's report." I am sorry, but if I had spent half a million dollars on something, I would want to make sure that it was mine.

[Quorum formed.]

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: I am glad the member for Churchlands felt the need to have so many more people come in to hear my speech about housing opportunity areas in the City of Joondalup!

As I was saying, if I had spent half a million dollars on getting a report, I would want to make sure that I owned that report. I find it strange that the City of Joondalup is claiming that this is not its report but a consultant's report, because half a million dollars is a lot of ratepayers' money to spend on a report that the city does not own. I feel like the City of Joondalup has done two-thirds of the work. It has consulted with the community and created this report, and through that report the consultant prepared a proposal for a new strategy for infill. However, rather than taking that

back to the community and asking its views on the proposed amendment, it is trying to step back and say that it is not its report, that this is the amendment it has created, and that it has sent it off to the Western Australian Planning Commission. The community is not happy with this. I do not think they could express in any firmer terms that they are not happy with this. They requested a deferral of this for a month at the council meeting last month, just so that they could get their heads around what it all meant, because they are not planners. This is a complex 700-page document. It is a lot to get through. My concern is that their voices are not being heard and that we are lacking some real leadership from the mayor on this issue. If he is prepared to meet with Edgewater residents, why is he not prepared to meet with Woodvale residents? They have told me that they have requested a meeting with him and that they want to engage with him. I call on him, in the strongest terms, to meet with them and to have a decent conversation with these people whose lives we are affecting. While I again congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer on their leadership, I question the leadership we are currently seeing from the City of Joondalup.

I will move on to some more exciting and nicer matters for the state seat of Kingsley. I will take this opportunity to speak about some of the great things that are happening in Kingsley. The Premier came out to the electorate in February this year to see Duffy House and to officially sign over the management order for it. This is a really small house in Yellagonga Regional Park, but it has a really big impact on my community. The community got behind this house and wanted to make sure that it was restored, so much so that somebody put up a sign along Duffy Terrace pleading with us to save Duffy House. As happens a lot between governments, Duffy House was slipping through the cracks. It was on state-owned land. It was becoming derelict. The state offered it to the City of Joondalup; it offered to excise it from Yellagonga Regional Park and hand it over to the City of Joondalup to manage. It was going to give the city a bit of money to look after it. The city did not want to do that. Under the previous government, Duffy House sat there for another eight years and it became more derelict and dangerous. It got to the point at which the Western Australian Planning Commission, whose land it was on, decided that it posed a risk to the community and it should probably be demolished so nobody got injured. The City of Joondalup then decided that it did not want the house demolished—after the city deciding it did not want to look after the house, it did not want it demolished either. I thought the city could not have its cake and eat it too. I worked with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and DBCA—what is it called now?

Mr M. McGowan: The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: I thank the Premier!

I also worked with the local council. I got them all in a room and told them that we could not let this house be destroyed, because it was so important to the local heritage of our community. In the middle of suburbia in Kingsley there is not a lot of heritage around us, although it all seems to fall in my electorate, which is nice. We have to be able to hold on to those things. The heritage in the area informs our past and helps us look towards the future. The community was really, really keen to see this house restored and returned. We got the various bodies together and I came up with a plan, similar to what had been done before, to excise the house from the Yellagonga Regional Park and hand over management of the house to the City of Joondalup, with a little bit of money to help with the restoration. The main difference was that we also agreed to allow some very small scale commercialisation in the house—so tearooms, a cafe or an art gallery. It would be something of that nature that could serve the community, because, as we know, adaptive re-use is the best way to preserve our heritage buildings. This was a way to preserve that building in order to serve the community and not have too much of an impost on the City of Joondalup for maintenance. Everyone agreed with this idea. The minister spoke to her department and a letter was drawn up offering the City of Joondalup \$150 000, which is a lot of money, towards the restoration of the project. Unfortunately, the City of Joondalup decided that that was not enough money and it wanted more. I was personally very upset by this, and so was the community, because we felt like the state was doing this in good faith and the City of Joondalup, after having rejected the offer once years ago was now rejecting it again. That was very concerning for a lot of community members. I worked very hard with the Minister for Planning and we were able to find some more money to put towards the project. In February this year, the Premier and the minister signed over the management of Duffy House to the City of Joondalup, after the asbestos on the site was cleaned up, with an amount of \$300 000 towards restoration. Although it is a small house and it is a small part of the culture of the area, it has massive local significance. It is one of the oldest houses in the City of Joondalup—City of Wanneroo region. Jack Duffy lived there until about 10 or 11 years ago. The Duffy family contributed very much to the economic growth of our area. They had a dairy. They grew vegetables and sold them. They were part of the fabric of the Joondalup—Wanneroo area. To be able to restore this house was a great thing for my community. It was a community win. It was not me. It was the community coming to me with its passion and showing me how much it wanted this. I was able to then take that passion, demonstrate it to the Premier and minister, and get that house saved.

I would like to highlight a couple of other things in my community. The Minister for Seniors and Ageing knows, because I tell him every time I get a chance, that 24 per cent of my electorate is over the age of 60.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: That means we obviously have a very strong ageing population. These people, my seniors, are amazing. They do not sit on their laurels and let life go by. These are people who are still out there fighting passionately for their community. I would like to recognise David Hastings, who I recently presented with his 20-year service medal clasp. He is one of Western Australia's longest serving cadet instructors. I am told it is extremely rare for an instructor to continue service for 20 years. After meeting Mr Hastings, I saw he showed no sign of ending his commitment to the organisation. I personally commend him as member for Kingsley, but also on behalf of the government, for his service to the cadets. I also acknowledge Peter Snow, who recently was awarded the individual WA Heritage Award for his volunteer work over 40 years towards Albany's whaling station. This was a derelict whaling station. He and his community organisation have worked towards creating a tourism opportunity down there in Albany. They are some of the great things I am proud to say the people of Kingsley have contributed, not just to my community, but to the state as a whole. I conclude my remarks there.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

House adjourned at 4.26 pm
